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participate in
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Show



INSIDE
Victoria Greer of
Elba named Tot
Miss in Valentine
Pageant



The Elba Clipper

Volume 105, Number 37

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 28, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County Probate Judge responds to audit

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

A recently completed audit of the financial records of the Coffee County Judge of Probate Office has come under some strong criticism from the news media and others. Probate Judge William Gammill sat down last week with this newspaper and reviewed the audit section by section. Gammill noted that the information in this audit is three and four years old. He explained the findings of the auditors, what had been remedial action has been taken and detailed the reasons for his disagreement over the pay back requested by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

Several times during the hour long meeting Gammill stressed the need for and his support for the auditors. He added that he is actively working to get annual audits to replace the current every three-year audits. He explained that a problem could be three years old before found by the auditor and even older before he actually received the official audit report. "My problem is not with the auditors, but with some of their findings," Gammill said when discussing their official demand that he repay \$328,311 to the Judge's Discretionary Fund.

Gammill explained, and the audit confirmed, that the difference is over purchasing plaques for employees, an out-of-state title replacement and food items for a retirement and Thanksgiving party (dinner). "It was not politically smart for me to challenge these findings," Gammill said. He said that as of 6 a.m. Monday the officers had visited 72 streets and would complete surveying the balance of the streets on schedule. Officers have targeted 45 vehicles for removal. He noted that a number of citizens are going ahead and removing their older vehicles before the department cites their auto for removal.

Whitworth also reminded council members he will be a candidate for sheriff this year and offered to take a leave of absence if the council so wished.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported that the council and Gibson Street is finally complete. He added that the city crews continue with patching and improving various streets. The city is closing out the paperwork on the federally funded buy-out program and will soon be taking steps to remove the final four houses purchased under the CDBG buy-out program.

Grimes announced the exit audit has been completed on 1998 and the city received a very complimentary summary letter. Grimes quoted from the letter which said in part, "commended on professional manner project was managed."

The mayor also reported to the council that Mr. Kenneth Bryan, of Charter Communications, had recently visited his office and said the company will start about the first of April on upgrading the local cable TV system. Work should be completed by October. He added that when the system upgrade is completed, Elba subscribers will have access to 189 TV channels and high speed internet.

At the request of Councilman L. M. Birch the council and Chief Whitworth agreed to increase the speed limits on Martin L. King Drive (across the bypass) to 45 miles per hour as legally allowed. Whitworth explained that there are limits of 10 mph increments on dropping speeds, but no limits on increasing the speed.

Elba police chief R.W. Whitworth announced Thursday, Jan. 21, his plans to run for Sheriff of Coffee County.

Whitworth is a veteran law enforcement officer with 26 years serving as the police chief in Elba. He also served in the United States Army as a military policeman in Korea.

While serving as a state trooper, Whitworth was highly decorated for his accomplishments in the field. He was named "Member of the Year" by the Alabama State Trooper Association for his outstanding performance in a crisis situation during the devastating flood of Elba in 1990. This award, voted on by his peers, recognizes only state troopers throughout the state who exceeded their call of duty.

He was twice named "Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" in 1991 and 1995, by the Dothan Optimist Club. Whitworth also earned a Life Saving certificate in 1975 for risking his own life by pulling someone from a burning vehicle.

Under Whitworth's leadership as police chief of Elba, drug arrests elevated and the crime rate is down tremendously as he continues to upgrade the police department with the latest technology and equipment.

"In running a department, I feel there are certain issues that must take priority for the department to effectively do its job,"

Lions Club pancake breakfast set for Saturday

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba Lions Club will host its annual Pancake Breakfast Benefit on Saturday, March 2, at the Elba Senior Citizen's Center. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice will be served from 6-10 a.m., and citizens are welcome to eat in or carry out. Tickets may be purchased from any Lion Club member or at the breakfast. Each year, the breakfast serves as a highlight event for the club and the citizens of Elba as many come out to show their support for the Lions Club. As shown from this picture taken during last year's event, there is always an eager crowd waiting to be served by the club members, and everyone seems to have a good time as they fellowship with one another.

Please See AUDIT, Page 2

Elba man charged for armed robbery

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The armed robbery of an Elba resident led to the arrest of another last week following an investigation by the Elba Police Department.

Elba Police Chief R.W. Whitworth said Marcus Tillis of Elba became the victim of an armed robbery last Tuesday, Feb. 19, at approximately 9:02 p.m., when two suspects entered his home at 413 Adkins St.

According to the police report, the suspects entered the home after kicking in the door. They were wearing bandanas and masks, and both had handguns.

Whitworth said the victim received bodily harm during the incident, as approximately \$3,000 in cash and a Sony Playstation 2 were taken from his home. However, he said the victim managed to recognize one of the suspects, and a warrant was signed for his arrest.

On Friday, Feb. 22, Whitworth said Ous Daniels of Elba was arrested by the

Liverne Police Department on unrelated charges. After it was discovered that a warrant for Daniels' arrest existed in Elba, Whitworth said the Liverne Police Department turned him over to the Elba Police Department. At that point, he was charged with Robbery - First Degree, arrested and placed in the Coffee County Jail.

Whitworth said the investigation into this matter continues, and additional arrests are expected. Anyone with information regarding this matter is encouraged to call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.

approved during the commission's last meeting.

The matter of concern involved around a motion approved during the Feb. 11 meeting of the commission in which the members voted to allow a 60 ft. right-of-way be used on roads less than one mile in length rather than the normal 80 ft. right-of-way.

County Engineer Randy Tindell reminded the members of the motion that was passed during the last meeting; however, he said County Road 518 will not allow for a 60 ft. right-of-way. He said the road would not be adequate with a 60 ft. right-of-way, and he felt the commission should revisit the idea of using an 80 ft. right-of-way for this road.

Commissioner Kayo Lewis made a motion to amend the motion previously approved by the commission to give the county engineer power to make the decision on the short roads

in regards to using a 60 or an 80 ft. right-of-way.

After some discussion concerning having some roads with an 80 ft. right-of-way and some with a 60 ft. right-of-way, Commissioner Robert Stephens made a motion to amend the motion made by Lewis. Stephens' motion called for the county to go back to supplying an 80 ft. right-of-way on all county roads taking the county engineer out of the position of having to make a decision concerning this.

"I think it is a good policy to have an 80 ft. right-of-way on the roads," said Commissioner Doug Dalrymple.

Commissioner Stephens amended motion passed by a unanimous vote. The commission then voted on the motion made by Lewis with the addition of Stephens' amendment, and it also passed with a unanimous vote. With that said, the matter returned to its old policy

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their leader has to answer for it," Whitworth said. "The sheriff might, at any time, have to make a life and death call, and he must have the training to do that. I'm well qualified to make those calls."

Whitworth said he sees himself as an experienced officer of the law who will be fair, tough and extremely disciplined.

"The sheriff has got to be able to take the heat but not take it personally," he said. "He's got to have thick skin but not a thick head. He's got to be experienced enough to handle virtually any law enforcement situation, self-confident enough to ask for help when he needs it and smart enough to know the difference."

Commission amends right-of-way policy for county roads

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council reviewed four months of financial statements Monday evening. The results showed revenue above budget, however Mayor James Grimes explained that was due largely to annual ad valorem taxes, which peak in December and January, but fall to almost nothing for the balance of the year.

Grimes also noted that sales tax revenue is not as bad as it has been in the recent past. He also had positive comments on the expenditure side, saying most departments were doing "pretty good." The worst overages are in the fact the city purchased two new police cars (\$40,157) and paid off the balance of \$108,000 on an old sewer improvement loan. The police department was over budget by about \$10,000 and the fire department over by almost \$3,000.

Fire department expenses vary widely, based largely on the number of fires the volunteers respond to during a month and/or year.

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target with the program to remove abandoned vehicles from town. He said that as of 6 a.m. Monday the officers had visited 72 streets and would complete surveying the balance of the streets on schedule. Officers have targeted 45 vehicles for removal. He noted that a number of citizens are going ahead and removing their older vehicles before the department cites their auto for removal.

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Each event was approved

Please See CCC, Page 3

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Please See CCC, Page 3

SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editor:
Katie Grimes

Seniors fall short in student-faculty basketball game

by Hunter Branch

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the senior boys battled the high school faculty in a basketball game sponsored by the Senior Beta Club in an effort to raise money for cystic fibrosis.

The seniors came ready to play, as, over the years, the seniors have failed to win in this series. They arrived enthusiastic and on fire. The seniors jumped to a 12-4 lead with 1:23 left in the first quarter, and finished that portion of the game with a lead of 16-6, thanks to excellent three-point shooting from Brent Bowers and Matthew Reed. Sadly, the game continued downhill from that point.

Senior Coach Abia Williams pulled the biggest of all bonehead mistakes ever recorded in sports history. Coach Williams

took out all the starters and replaced them with the goof troop. That, combined with the fact that all-star faculty team member Leroy Carnley caught fire and hit every shot he took, contributed to the defeat of the seniors. Also, to the dismay of the EHS lads, the referees failed to put their whistles in their mouths. At halftime the faculty led 26-17.

Unfortunately, the second half of the game was just pure ugly. At one point, the seniors were playing with seven men on the court and still couldn't manage to score. In a desperate attempt to salvage their pride, the seniors rushed the court and charged the faculty. The seniors may have lost the game, but they won the wrestling match that ensued. The game ended in a score of 42-26, yet another loss for the seniors.

EHS Faculty Spotlight

by Charly Barlow

The teacher in this week's faculty spotlight is Ms. Judith Tucker.

Ms. Tucker attended Luverne High School and then went on to Troy State, where she obtained her degree in English. She formerly taught at Liberty High School, Gordo High School, and Charles Henderson High School. Ms. Tucker has taught at EHS for 33 years. She teaches 8th, 9th and 12th grade advanced and general English classes.

Ms. Tucker's hobbies include reading, playing the piano, and watching the Braves and the Crimson Tide on television. In addition to fulfilling her teaching duties, Ms. Tucker has been the pianist at the First Baptist Church of Elba for 33 years.



Judith Tucker

Ms. Tucker was inspired to pursue a career in education by her 12th grade English teacher. When asked what she would want to be if she could no longer be a teacher, she said she would like to be retired.

Elba students put on fantastic Black and Gold Show

by Katie Grimes

On the evening of Thursday, Feb. 14, the students of Elba Elementary and High Schools participated in the annual "Black and Gold Show."

The Black and Gold Show is

an opportunity for students to display their talents in entertainment. The participants were divided into three categories: 1-3 grades, 4-6 grades, and 7-12 grades. Students performed a diverse variety of acts, including an abbreviated

presentation of the musical "Grease," tap dancing and lip syncing. The collective second grade classes won 1st place in the 1-3 grade category with their "Grease" act; April Finedore swept the 4-6 grade category with her karate demonstration; and Judson Vaughan and Gale Olson won the 7-12 grade category by singing a duet of the country tune "From This Moment."

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants for putting on a spectacular show!



April Finedore



Sarah Bane & Seth Hanchey participated in the "Grease" musical.

Elba High School Chorus provides Black History Month program Feb. 19

by Miranda Russell

On Feb. 19, 2002, the EHS Chorus performed for the student body during an assembly in honor of Black History Month. The scheduled speaker, Gregory Calhoun, was unable to attend due to an illness in his family. However, as the saying goes, "The show must go on," and that it did. The chorus presented traditional African-American songs as well as a stomp dance. The performance was very delightful. We commend Mrs. Pasten Robinson, choral instructor, and her talented students for a job well done.



Gale Olson and Judson Vaughan

Co-Op Spotlight

by Charly Barlow

This week's Co-Op Spotlight focuses on Lakia Walker.

Lakia is an 18-year-old senior at Elba High School. She is the daughter of Chequita Walker.

Lakia is employed at Kelly's BBQ where she cooks, cleans, and serves customers. Her hobbies include hanging out with friends and talking on the phone.

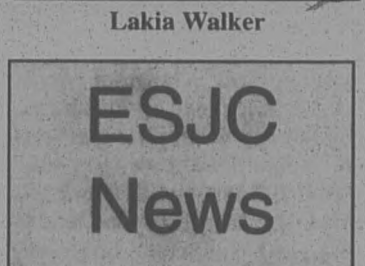
After graduation Lakia plans on attending college.



Lakia Walker

Golf tournament planned to benefit EHS Golf team

A golf tournament will be held at the Elba Country Club on Saturday, March 2, at 8:30 a.m. The event will be a 4-person scramble with proceeds benefiting the Elba High School Golf team.



ESJC News

***Tote and Decorative Painting is such a popular special interest course, Enterprise State Junior College offers it each semester. This course is scheduled for spring semester for Thursdays, March 7-April 18 (excluding March 28), 6:00-9:00 p.m. The registration deadline is February 28. As always this course provides instruction for beginners and advanced painters. Painting will be done with acrylics on wood or metal. Students will learn how to prepare a project to be painted, how to select proper tools and materials, and how to use appropriate brush strokes. There is a \$30.00 fee for this course. Students may bring their own supplies with them, or they may purchase supplies at the first class meeting. There could be a broad range in the cost of supplies. If students have some supplies, the cost could be as low as \$30.00. If the student owns no supplies and needs to purchase everything, the cost could be as much as \$60.00. Students must be at least twelve years old. For more information call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234.

***Tone up with non-impact exercise through Enterprise State Junior College's Leisure Swimming. Participants have the opportunity to maintain fitness through swimming in the College's indoor pool during select times set aside just for them. This spring semester the pool will be available for approximately 20 hours per week. The fee for individual participants is \$40.00 and \$55.00 for families. There is no registration deadline; participants may sign up at any time during the semester. For more information call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234.

EES Faculty Spotlight

by Stephanie Sasser

This week's faculty spotlight is focused on Pamela Mitchell. Mrs. Mitchell teaches 2nd grade at EES. She attended Elba High School and later earned her degree at Troy State University. She has been with the EES School System for seven years.

Mrs. Mitchell is married to John Mitchell and has four children. Her hobbies include playing board games, volleyball, singing and sewing. An interesting fact about Mrs. Mitchell is that she is a minister with a love for all people.

When asked who inspired her to become a teacher, she said, "I've always had a desire to



Pam Mitchell

teach. My 3rd grade teacher, Ruby Stinson, had a major influence on my life."

If Mrs. Mitchell could no longer teach, she would pursue a full time ministry.

Family council improves family life When Parents Need To Worry

by Angela G. Hughes
County Extension Agent

Today's busy families are discovering that a family council helps improve the quality of family life. The family council is an open forum that gives every member of the family the opportunity to express opinions and ideas, offer compliments or complaints, participate in decision making and problem solving, and most importantly, be listened to. This meeting can be used to discuss family business, share information and schedules, make or review plans and establish rules.

The meeting can also assign and review responsibilities, air grievances, resolve disagreements and make decisions.

Family councils are especially useful for families with older children, but are great for all families. Having input into family decisions gives children practice in decision making, greater awareness of the family's situation and condition, and contributes to their sense of worth. Children are likely to be more involved in family activities if they have had some say in the planning phases.

Enterprise State Junior College to hold seminar for healthcare workers

Diversified Nursing Services and Enterprise State Junior College will present a special seminar for healthcare workers. Persons participating in this seminar will learn about the role of health care professionals dealing with domestic violence. Nurses will receive six contact hours of continuing education credit in cooperation with Diversified Nursing Services, which is an organization approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing as a provider of continuing education. The seminar will be held on Friday, April 5, 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. There is a \$55.00 fee for this seminar, and the registration deadline is March 29. (A \$65.00 fee will be charged at the door on a space available basis.) For more information and a copy of the course objectives, call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234.

Penalties for failure and pay estimated tax include a delinquent penalty of 10% of any

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart Pageant held Feb. 2 in Elba



BABY MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Baby Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Hali Nicole Praytor of Opp; 1st runner up - Madison Alyssa Jones of Opp; and 2nd runner up - Malinda Gail Pascoe of Elba.



TINY MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Tiny Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Madison Rayanne Jennings of Samson; 1st runner up - Kaitlyn Collette Richardson of Opp; and 2nd runner up - Shelby Dixon Weems of New Brockton.



TOT MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Tot Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Victoria Shayne Greer of Elba; 1st runner up - Alex Dawson of Elba; and 2nd runner up - Sarah Reagan Kelley of Elba.



LITTLE MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Little Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Delaney Kleven of Daleville; 1st runner up - Kane Powell of Brundidge; and 2nd runner up - Brooke Weeks of Elba.



MINI MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Mini Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Lindsay Meagan McClung of Elba; 1st runner up - Marci Tona Bess of Opp; and 2nd runner up - Lauren Elizabeth Langford of Andalusia.



JUNIOR MISS...The winner and runners-up were: Junior Miss Tri-County Valentine Sweetheart - Pamela L. Wilson of Enterprise; 1st runner up - Haley Marissa Harrison of Opp; and 2nd runner up - Lyndsay Kathryn Lawford of Elba.

University of Montevallo students named to fall semester honor roll

More than 600 University of Montevallo students were named to the honor roll for the fall semester.

The President's List included the names of more than 295 students. To make the President's List, a student must earn at least a 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a full-time student at the University.

Dean's List honors went to 305 students. To make the Dean's List, a student must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a full-time student at the University. Mary Ramsey of Elba was named to the President's List. Carmenda



April 15 marks first reporting period for estimated tax payers

April 15 marks the first reporting date of the new tax year for individual taxpayers who are required to file and pay estimated tax. Estimated tax is the method used to pay tax on income that is not subject to withholding. Estimated tax applies to income received from self-employment, interest, dividends, alimony, rent, capital gains, prizes, gambling winnings, and awards. Estimated tax is paid on a quarterly basis at both the state and federal levels.

"We encourage taxpayers to review monthly or quarterly interest income statements, dividend statements, income earnings from capital gains, and other 'non-wage' income statements to determine if these income sources have affected any reporting or filing require-

ments," said State Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Underwood.

"Last year, the department implemented an automated program to assess penalties for failure to report and pay estimated income tax. Estimated tax penalties are routinely enforced at the federal level, but at the state level, we simply did not have the resources in place until 2001 to identify large numbers of taxpayers who met the filing requirements, but were not reporting and paying estimated tax," said Underwood. "By planning now, taxpayers can avoid potential penalties in 2003."

Who is required to file and pay estimated tax? Generally, if a single person or a married person filing a separate annual return expects to receive at least \$1,875 in net income from sources other than wages or salaries, estimated tax provisions apply. In the case of married individuals who file joint annual returns, estimated tax filing requirements apply if the individuals expect to receive at least \$3,750 in net income from sources other than wages or salaries.

Penalties for failure and pay estimated tax include a delinquent penalty of 10% of any

additional taxes required to be paid of \$50, whichever is greater, or a 6% understatement penalty.

Taxpayers who pay additional tax in 2002 when they file their 2001 annual return are urged to review their anticipated 2002 tax-year obligations to determine if estimated tax-filing requirements will be met for the 2002 tax year.

Estimated tax filing and payment dates for the 2002 tax year are: April 15, 2002; June 15, 2002; September 15, 2002; and January 15, 2003. Note, however, if the tax filing deadline date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then the deadline date is moved to the next business day. Payment amounts can be adjusted quarterly - up or down - to reflect any unexpected changes in non-wage income earnings. For more information concerning an individual's estimated income tax filing requirements, contact the Alabama Department of Revenue, Individual and Corporate Tax Division at (334) 242-1000, or consult a tax accountant or tax preparer for advice. Taxpayers having Internet access may download estimated income tax forms and instructions from the department's Web site at www.ador.state.al.us.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

I usually believe my girls when they say they need more clothes. However, our youngest may have been stretching it a bit last week when she told me she needed more jeans and then told me she was wearing one she had worn since she was in the fourth grade. First of all, my girls will either wear out or lose clothes before they get that old. Second, Melanie has grown almost a foot in the last three years. Sorry...time for a new excuse!

DUSTING OFF THE OLE DESK...

***Elba Tiger All-State tackle Gavin Mauldin signed a football scholarship this week with Tennessee University, in Tennessee, and just like Ronald McKinnon many years ago, the major colleges let one slip through their hands. Mauldin improved more over the course of his high school career than any player I have ever seen, and there is absolutely no doubt that the 6-7, 300-pounder will only get better and better, and has a chance to join McKinnon in the pro's. I can understand major colleges like Alabama and Auburn being picky about their signees, but for state colleges like Troy State, West Alabama, Jacksonville State and North Alabama to pass on his talents is hard to understand. Believe me, this man can play and will prove all the state schools wrong very early in his college career.

***The regional tournaments were held at four sites across the state last week and a number of teams from the area will be heading up to Birmingham this week to compete for state championships. In Class 1A, the Pleasant Home Eagles will be heading back to Birmingham in hopes of bringing home a second straight state championship, while in Class 2A both the Barbour County Jaguars and Lady Jaguars will be at the state tournament, with the boys also looking to make it two straight. In Class 4A, the T.R. Miller Lady Tigers and the undefeated Abbeville Lady Yellow Jackets will be in the Magic City looking for a title, while in Class 6A, the Dothan Tigers will take their title hopes to the state tournament. Barbour County has dominated 2A basketball since the merger of Clayton and Louisville two years ago and should have a solid shot at bringing home at least one crown, while the other team to watch has to be the T.R. Miller girls. If you get a chance to attend the state tournament you will get a real treat.

***The Alabama Recreation and Parks Association will host its District Basketball Tournaments this weekend all across the state, and four teams from Elba will compete with the hopes of earning a spot in the state tournaments. The Elba teams usually do well in the youngest age groups, but struggle in the older age divisions due to the fact boys and girls that play on school teams aren't eligible to compete in the tournaments. Here in Elba the junior high basketball season ends before the Recreation League season even begins, and that makes it hard to compete when so many players aren't eligible to play in the tournaments. Elba is the smallest affiliate in the district and must compete against such towns as Opp, Andalusia, Greenville, Troy, Enterprise, Dothan, Abbeville, Eufaula and Geneva, and with the rules in place in A.R.P.A., it makes it almost impossible for an Elba team to win. Unless some changes are made at the state level, it may very well be time to rework the youth program and stop competing in the tournaments in the older age groups. You can bet it will be discussed.

***The Olympics are now over, and the United States had its best winter games ever as it piled up the medals in almost all events. The fact the USA had the most athletes in the games helped our chances, and it never hurts to compete on your home venue. However, more than that, the medals proved once again that the USA can compete against the world, and now, no matter the sport.

***In closing...the Charles Cole Family, of New Brockton, has to be the first family of basketball here in Coffee County. Charles played basketball at Mulberry Hts. High School many years ago and scored over 1,000 points in his high school career before going on to excel at Alabama State. He later was an ultra successful junior high coach at New Hope and then led New Brockton High School to a state championship. His son Kellen also scored over 1,000 points during his career at New Brockton, and last year was a valuable member of the Faulkner College team that won the NAIA national championship. His daughter Kendra scored over 1,500 points during her recently completed career at New Brockton and will no doubt continue her career at the college level. What does Mom do? Well, Barbara is a teacher at New Brockton High School, and somehow finds time to coach the Lady Gamecock basketball team. If basketball is your game, the Cole family has to be the #1 family in Coffee County!

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Elba to host 14 and Under event

All-Star teams ready to tip off tournaments

The Alabama Recreation and Parks Association will hold its youth basketball tournaments across the state this weekend, with four All-Star teams from Elba set to compete in District 8 Tournament action at four different sites.

The Girls 12 and Under All-Stars will compete in Greenville, while the Boys 10 and Under All-Stars will travel to Enterprise, the Boys 12 and Under All-Stars will travel to Opp, and the Boys 14 and Under All-Stars will be the host team for their event at the Elba High School gym.

Following are previews of the All-Star tournaments:

GIRLS 12 AND UNDER

The Girls 12 and Under All-Stars will open tournament action on Friday night when they travel to Greenville to battle the Andalusia All-Stars. The game will be played at the Dothan Gym, with the tip-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

"We have a very young team and will have our work cut out for us," said Coach Ronnie Caldwell. "The key will be getting the ball down low to our big girls, but if we can handle the

Youth baseball and softball registration now underway

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will conduct registration for youth baseball and softball on Monday, Feb. 18, through Friday, March 1, for all boys and girls ages 4-18.

The registration fee is \$20 per person, with a \$50 maximum fee for families with multiple children playing.

Boys leagues will include Tee-Ball Baseball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch Baseball (ages 7-8), Dixie Minor Baseball (ages 9-10), Dixie Youth Baseball (ages 11-12), Dixie Boys Baseball (ages 13-14), Dixie Pre-Majors Baseball (ages 15-16) and Dixie Majors Baseball (ages 17-18). A players age will be determined by his age on or before July 31, 2002.

Girls leagues will include Tee-Ball Softball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch Softball (ages 7-8), Dixie Angels Fast-Pitch Softball (ages 9-10), Dixie Ponytails Fast-Pitch Softball (ages 11-12), Dixie Belles Fast-Pitch Softball (ages 13-15) and Dixie Senior Girls Fast-Pitch Softball (ages 16-18). A players age will be determined by her age on or before May 31, 2002.

Registration forms will be available at the Elba Elementary School, Elba City Hall and at the Elba Recreation office at 764 North Claxton Avenue. For more information call 897-6833. Coaches are also needed for all teams in both baseball and softball.

State high school basketball tournament underway this week in Birmingham

The Alabama High School Athletic Association will host the "State Championship Basketball Tournament" on Feb. 26 - March 2, at the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center.

Following are complete state tournament pairings:

TUESDAY, FEB. 26
Class 1A Girls
9:00 - Carrollton (25-4) vs. Spring Garden (22-9)
12:00 - Nofaulga (15-4) vs. Belgreen (24-7)
Class 1A Boys
10:30 - Akron (23-6) vs. Talladega Central (21-9)
Class 2A Girls
4:00 - McIntosh (26-1) vs. Gaston (21-6)
7:00 - Barbour County (26-6) vs. Hatton (28-4)
Class 2A Boys
5:30 - Calera (26-7) vs. Geraldine (29-5)
8:30 - Barbour County (26-6) vs. Holy Family (22-8)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27
Class 3A Girls
9:00 - Springville (29-4) vs. Sylvania (22-8)
12:00 - Catholic (25-6) vs. Lauderdale County (29-3)

THURSDAY, FEB. 28
Class 5A Girls
9:00 - LeFlore (26-5) vs. Wenonah (24-8)
12:00 - Jeff Davis (28-6) vs. Sparkman (33-0)
Class 6A Boys
10:30 - LeFlore (26-5) vs. West End (20-10)
1:30 - Dothan (24-5) vs. Austin (23-9)

Championship Games
4:00 - Class 2A Girls
6:00 - Class 3A Girls
8:00 - Class 3A Boys

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
Championship Games
10:00 - Class 4A Girls
12:00 - Class 4A Boys
2:00 - Class 5A Girls
4:00 - Class 5A Boys
6:00 - Class 6A Girls
8:00 - Class 6A Boys

ball and get it to the boards we could surprise some people. I just hope the girls keep their composure and play well."

Members of the All-Star team include Meagan Anderson, Brittany Caldwell, Brandy Caldwell, Ashley Carpenter, Ashley Cooks, Kynu Coleman, Kayla Kyser, Hannah Manning, Kryston Parker and Tierney Starks.

The tournament pairings are as follows:
FRIDAY, MARCH 1
6:15 - Troy vs. Greenville
7:30 - Elba vs. Andalusia
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
9:00 - Opp vs. Geneva
10:15 - Hartford vs. Eufaula
11:30 - Troy-Greenville winner vs. Elba-Andalusia winner
12:45 - Opp-Geneva winner vs. Hartford-Eufaula winner
2:30 - Championship Game

BOYS 10 AND UNDER

The Boys 10 and Under All-Stars will tip-off their tournament action on Saturday morning when they travel to Enterprise to tangle with the Enterprise All-Stars. The game will be played at the Moose Hope Gym, with the tip-off set for 10:15 a.m.

"We have some very talented young players and are all excited about playing in the tournament," said Coach Trina Flowers. "The players have worked hard in practice and if we play well we should have a real chance at winning. I know it will be hard to compete against a team like Enterprise, but our players love to play basketball and are looking forward to the challenge."

Members of the All-Star team include Jason Mitchell, Jordan McBride, Donta Tillis, Gavin Flowers, Richard Cooks, Keenan Phillips, Kevin Allen, Taylor Cotton, Bradley Wilson, Jamison Baker and Colton Vaughan.

The tournament pairings are as follows:
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
9:00 - Greenville vs. Geneva
10:15 - Enterprise vs. Elba
11:30 - Troy vs. Opp
12:45 - Greenville-Geneva winner vs. Andalusia
2:00 - Enterprise-Elba winner vs. Troy-Opp winner
3:30 - Championship Game

BOYS 14 AND UNDER

The Boys 14 and Under All-Stars will get to stay at home on Saturday morning when the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation hosts the tournament at the Elba High School gym. The Elba All-Stars will tip-off tournament action at 10:00 against Enterprise.

"We have a very young team and may not match-up real well against some of the other teams in the tournament," said Coach Abdel Bilal, "but our players have worked hard in practice and are looking forward to competing in the tournament. If we can play well and not get rattled we could surprise some people."

Members of the All-Star team include Chase Graham, Derrick Manning, Cornelius Reese, William Carpenter, Kevin Parks, Juan Starks, Rashad Bilal, Rashad Robinson and Antwon Tillis.

The tournament pairings are as follows:
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
10:00 - Elba vs. Enterprise
11:15 - Greenville vs. Geneva
12:30 - Andalusia vs. Elba-Enterprise winner
2:00 - Championship Game

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Following are results from last week's Regional Tournaments involving teams from the area:
CLASS 1A - BOYS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
G.W. Long 79 Edward Bell 70
Pleasant Home 58 Reeltown 50
Finals:
Pleasant Home 35 G.W. Long 29

CLASS 1A - GIRLS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Andalusia 48 Sumter County 45
Finals:
Livingston 47 Andalusia 41

CLASS 4A - GIRLS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Abbeville 66 St. James 42
Elmore County 63 Daleville 37
Finals:
Abbeville 47 Elmore County 37

CLASS 4A - BOYS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Barbour County 66 Vincent 63
T.R. Miller 44 Livingston 42
Andalusia 45 Choctaw County 41

CLASS 2A - GIRLS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
T.R. Miller 57 Andalusia 38
Finals:
T.R. Miller 65 Goshen 63

CLASS 2A - BOYS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Geneva County 44 Clay County 22
Finals:
Barbour County 50 Horseshoe Bend 28

CLASS 5A - GIRLS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Barbour County 50 Geneva County 48
Finals:
Barbour County 50 Geneva County 48

CLASS 5A - BOYS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Calera 46 Highland Home 45
Finals:
Dothan 66 Opelika 55

CLASS 6A - GIRLS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Dothan 66 Central, PC 54

CLASS 6A - BOYS
(Southeast Regional)
Semifinals:
Dothan 66 Central, PC 54

Spring Sports CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 28
Highland Home at Elba (JV) (2) 3:30

MONDAY, MARCH 4
Baseball
New Brockton at Elba (V) 4:30

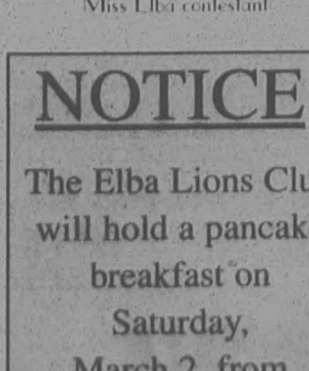
Baseball
Samson at Elba (V) 4:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 5
Baseball
Elba at Straughton (JV & V) 3:30

Softball
Elba vs. Goshen, at Troy Sportsplex (JV) 4:00

COMMUNITY NEWS

Contestants preparing for Miss Elba pageant set for March 2

Frankie Williams
Little Miss Elba contestantMorgan Cammon
Little Miss Elba contestantEva Walker
Junior Miss Elba contestantAnna Harrison
Junior Miss Elba contestantEmily Tompkins
Junior Miss Elba contestantEmily Felley
Junior Miss Elba contestantAshley Carney
Junior Miss Elba contestantCasey Melick
Junior Miss Elba contestantAnna Anderson
Miss Elba contestantCasey Shum
Miss Elba contestantEmily Ward
Miss Elba contestantEmily Ward
Miss Elba contestant

New Season's Study Club invites everyone to the Miss Elba pageants scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 6 p.m., at the Elba High School auditorium as 35 young ladies vie for the crowns of Future Little Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Elba. An exciting night is expected with Debbie Williams, anchor of WSAF-12 in Montgomery, and Eddie Vaughan of Elba to lead the program as Mistress and Master of Ceremony. Scheduled entertainment for the night will be Dixie Sellers dance group, Elba Elementary Choral Group, Judson Vaughan and Enterprise FFA Chorus.

Tickets will be sold at the door with children under 3 years of age admitted free. A 40-page program will also be available for purchase. Contestants for the Future Little Miss Elba category will include: Emilee Hudson, Annabelle Stokes, Peyton Dunn, Alex Dawson, Victoria Greer, Keeley Daugherty, Sarah Bryan, Reagan Kelley, Venecia Magwood and Kaelyn Fillingim.

Mackie Mollory
Little Miss Elba contestantJoanne Walker
Little Miss Elba contestantFendall Stinson
Junior Miss Elba contestantBlake Branson
Junior Miss Elba contestantErinna Bailey
Junior Miss Elba contestantLauren McClary
Junior Miss Elba contestantAshley Harrison
Miss Elba contestantSherry Johnson
Miss Elba contestant

Bridal Registry
Kelly Brannon & Jake Stokes
Wedding 2/23/02
Melissa Barlow & Lowell Thomas III
Shower: 03/17/02 Wedding: 4/13/02
Robyn Rhoades & Barney Wilson
Shower: 05/05/02 Wedding: 05/11/02
Katie Terrell & Matt Morrow
Wedding: 05/04/02 Reception: 06/02/02

Briar Patch
Garden & Gift Shoppe
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NOTICE:

The Elba Lions Club will hold a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 2, from 6:00-10:00 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Building.

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